



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Excelsior Springs, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for possessing a stolen firearm. Graves said this case is the result of work completed by the NITRO task force.

Joe P. Wright, 18, of Excelsior Springs, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to one year and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On July 24, 2003, **Wright** pleaded guilty to illegally possessing a stolen firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a Bryco Arms .380 caliber pistol on June 2, 2003, knowing that the firearm was stolen. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone to possess a stolen firearm.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. The case was investigated by the Daviess County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Livingston County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Ray County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and NITRO, the Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation. NITRO is a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county northwest Missouri region.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow